

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving identification information from a user;

determining at the viewer if the user is authorized to restrict access to the electronic books;

if the user is authorized,

displaying the electronic book on the viewer;

receiving at the viewer an identification of restricted content from the user;

saving an unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, the unrestricted version including the original format of the electronic book;

creating a restricted version of the electronic book and saving the restricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the electronic book with portions of the unrestricted version deleted, wherein the deletions are based on the identification of restricted content from the user; and

inserting a cross-reference to the restricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on at least one selected from the group consisting of content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, and a time based restriction; wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

restricting access to the electronic book based upon the information, wherein the restricting step includes restricting the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book by one selected from the group consisting of a publisher at an operation center and by a user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of text within the electronic book and permitting no viewing of images within the electronic book.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the restricting step includes permitting viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the restricting step includes permitting unlimited access to the electronic book.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit;

receiving at the viewer identification information from a user;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on the viewer based on the identification information received from the user;

receiving at the viewer a restriction on selected content from a user, wherein the content includes at least one of an image, text, a page, and a section of the electronic book;

saving an unrestricted version of the electronic book in the library unit, the unrestricted version including the original format of the electronic book;

creating and saving a restricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the electronic book with portions of the unrestricted version deleted, wherein the deletions are based on the restriction on selected content from the user; and

inserting a cross reference between the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing a plurality of electronic books in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

displaying a directory of the plurality of electronic books on a viewer, wherein the directory of the plurality of electronic books is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

determining if the user is an authorized user;

permitting an authorized user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

assign an access level restriction to a potential user;

create at the viewer restricted versions of electronic books to which the authorized user has restricted access by identifying restricted portions of the electronic book to be deleted from the unrestricted version of the electronic book, wherein the restricted versions maintain original formats of the electronic books;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books; and

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time; and

restricting access by at least one user other than the authorized user to the electronic books based upon the assigned ratings and the assigned access level.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12; wherein the permitting step includes permitting the authorized user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the restricting step includes selectively permitting access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further including requiring the authorized user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the permitting step includes permitting a default user to assign the rating.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display on a viewer, comprising:

storing and indexing an electronic book in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

determining if the user is an authorized user;

permitting an authorized user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book and rate access levels for at least one user other than the authorized user;

restricting access by the at least one user other than the authorized user to the content of the electronic book based upon the authorized user's selected portions, wherein an access restriction set by the authorized user to is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

saving a restricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, the restricted version having content from the restricted electronic book

and having the selected portions of the electronic book deleted without changing the original format of the electronic book;

inserting a cross reference between the restricted version and an unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users;
and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the permitting step includes permitting viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

displaying a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

receiving information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

permitting, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

23. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic books is displayed based on identification information of a user;

a receiving module that receives identification information from a user and receives information on whether the electronic book contains a restriction based on at least one selected from the group consisting of content, a rating, an associated access level, a page order based restriction, a time based restriction and if the electronic book contains at least one restriction, then the receiving module receives information on

whether the restriction applies to the identified user, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information, wherein the restricting module allows an authorized user to select restricted content, saves an unrestricted version of an electronic book, the unrestricted version including the original format of the electronic book including the restricted content, and saving a restricted version of the electronic book, wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the electronic book with the restricted content deleted, and

wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference to the restricted version of the electronic book in a header portion of a version of the electronic book to portions of which access is restricted.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a rating access module that restricts the access based upon a rating assigned to the electronic book, wherein the rating can be assigned to the electronic book at an operations center by one selected from a group consisting of a publisher and by a user.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a permitting module that permits viewing of text within the electronic book and permits no viewing of images within the electronic book.

28. – 29. (Canceled):

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the cross reference sections inserts a cross reference to the first version of the electronic book in a header portion of the second unrestricted electronic book.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of only selected pages of the electronic book.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25; wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits viewing of no portion of the electronic book.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the restricting module includes a module that permits unlimited access to the electronic book.

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for restricting access to electronic books, comprising:

a library unit for storing and indexing the electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic books having an identification or title of an electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic books is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a restriction receiving module that determines if a user is an authorized user, receives a restriction on selected content of the electronic book from the authorized user, saves the restriction in a header file of the electronic book, saves an unrestricted version of the electronic book in the original format in the library unit, including the selected content, and saves a restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit,

wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the electronic book with the selected content deleted;

an information receiving module that receives information relating to access to the electronic book by potential users and further relating to an identification of potential users; and

a restricting module that restricts access to the electronic book based upon the information and the restriction stored in the header file of the electronic book, wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference between the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a plurality of stored electronic books for display, comprising:

a memory that stores and indexes a plurality of electronic books;

a display that displays an index of the electronic book, wherein the index of the electronic book is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a permitting module that permits an authorized user to

assign a rating to each of the electronic books, the ratings being related to content of the electronic books;

assign an access level for each user other than the authorized user;

select portions of an original electronic book to which access will be restricted by deleting the selected portions of the electronic book;

save a restricted version of the original electronic book, the restricted version including at least part of the original content of the original electronic book and having the selected portions deleted without changing an original format of the original electronic book;

assign a page order based restriction to each of the electronic books;

assign a time based restriction to each of the electronic books, wherein each page of the electronic book must be displayed for a predetermined period of time; and

a restricting module that restricts access by at least one user other than the authorized user to the electronic books based upon at least one of the assigned ratings, the assigned access level, the assigned page order, and the assigned time, wherein the access restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits the user to assign to each of the electronic books a particular rating within a range of ratings.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the restricting module includes a selective permitting module that selectively permits access to the electronic books based upon the ratings within the range of ratings.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, further including a password module that requires the particular user to enter a password in order to assign the ratings.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the permitting module includes a rating module that permits a default user to assign the rating.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for permitting a user to restrict access to a stored electronic book for display, comprising:

a storing module that stores and indexes an electronic book;

a display unit for displaying an index having the electronic book, wherein the index is displayed based on identification information received from a user;

a permitting module that permits a particular user to select portions of the electronic book for use in restricting access to a content of the electronic book; and

a restricting module that restricts access by users other than an authorized user to the content of the electronic book based upon the authorized user's selected portions, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book; and

a restricted version module that saves a restricted version of the electronic book in the library unit, the restricted version including at least some content from the original version of the electronic book and having the authorized user's selected portions deleted without changing an original format of the electronic book;

wherein the restricting module includes a cross reference section that inserts a cross reference between the restricted version and an unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

42. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for controlling access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order;

a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by potential users; and

a permitting module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order.

43. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages only in sequential order.

44. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a module that permits viewing of the pages based upon a particular time period of viewing at least one of the pages.

45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the permitting module includes a viewing module that permits viewing of the pages based upon user-entered information.

46. (Withdrawn): An apparatus for controlling access to an electronic book displayed on a viewer, comprising:

a display that displays a portion of an electronic book on a viewer, the electronic book having a series of pages arranged in a particular order and each of the pages having a plurality of sections;

a receiving module that receives information relating to access of the electronic book by a user; and

a viewing module that permits, based upon the information, viewing of the pages only in the particular order and permitting the user to view a next page within the particular order only upon selection of the sections on each page in an order assigned to each page.

47. - 49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A method for electronically displaying a page of an electronic book on a viewer and permitting a user to restrict content of the electronic book, comprising:

storing the electronic book in a library unit;

receiving identification information from a user;

indexing the electronic book within an index of the library unit;

displaying a screen with the index having the electronic book on a viewer, wherein the index is displayed based on the identification information received from the user;

displaying within the screen a page of an electronic book, the page including at least a portion of content of the electronic book;

permitting an authorized user to identify at the viewer at least a portion of the content displayed within the screen;

permitting the authorized user to request restriction of the identified content, wherein the restriction is stored in a header file of the electronic book;

storing an unrestricted version of the electronic book including a restriction based on the identified content, the unrestricted version of the electronic book having a original content including restricted content;

saving a restricted version of the electronic book, wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the election book with the restricted content deleted; and

inserting a cross reference between the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the restricted version and the unrestricted version of the electronic book.

51-53. (Canceled)

54. (New) A method for restricting access to electronic books displayed on a viewer, comprising:

receiving and updating directory data of the electronic books in a library unit, wherein each electronic book comprises a header portion;

displaying an identification or title of an electronic book on a viewer;

receiving identification information from a user;

determining at the viewer if the user is authorized to restrict access to the electronic books;

if the user is authorized,

displaying the electronic book on the viewer;

receiving at the viewer an identification of restricted content from the user;

saving an unrestricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, the unrestricted version including the original format of the electronic book;

creating a restricted version of the electronic book and saving the restricted version of the electronic book in at least one of the library unit and the viewer, wherein the restricted version includes the unrestricted version of the election book with portions of the unrestricted version deleted, wherein the deletions are based on the identification of restricted content from the user; and

wherein the header portion for each electronic book identifies whether the corresponding electronic book is the unrestricted version of the electronic book or the restricted version of the electronic book.